



Die Martis, 30 Ianuarii, 1648.

AN ACT

Prohibiting the

Proclaiming of any Person

TO BE

KING

OF

England or Ireland, or the Do-
minions thereof.

W Hereas *Charls Stuart* King of *England*, being for the notorious Treasons, Tyrannies and Murthiers committed by him in the late Unnatural and Cruel Wars condemned to Death; Whereupon, after Execution of the same, several Pretences may be made, and Title set on foot unto the Kingly Office, to the apparent hazard of the publique Peace: For prevention thereof, Be it Enacted and Ordained by this present Parliament, and by Authority of the same, That no person or persons whatsoever do presume to Proclaim,

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Declare, Publish, or any way promote *Charls Stuart*, Son of the said *Charls*, common called, The Prince of *Wales*, or any other person to be King, or chief Magistrate of *England*, or of *Ireland*, or of any the Dominions belonging to them, or either of them, by colour of Inheritance, Succession, Election, or any other Claim whatsoever, without the free consent of the People in Parliament first had, and signified by a particular Act or Ordinance for that purpose, Any Statute, Law, Usage or Custom to the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding. And be it further Enacted and Ordained, and it is hereby Enacted and Ordained, That whosoever shall contrary to this Act, Proclaim, Declare, Publish, or any way promote the said *Charls Stuart* the Son, or any other person to be King, or chief Magistrate of *England* or of *Ireland*, or of any the Dominions belonging to them, or to either of them, without the said consent in Parliament signified as aforesaid, shall be deemed and adjudged a Traytor to the Commonwealth, and shall suffer pains of Death, and such other punishments as belong to the Crime of High Treason. And all Officers, as well Civil as Military, and all other well-affected persons, are hereby authorized and required forthwith to apprehend all such Offenders, and to bring them in safe custody to the next Justice of the Peace, that they may be proceeded against accordingly.

Hen: Scobell, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

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An Act for the Form of an Oath to be administred to every Freeman, at his admision to his Freedom in the City of London, and in all Cities, Boroughs and Towns Corporate in England and Wales.

BE it Enacted by this present Parliament, and by Authority of the same, That the Oath under-written, and none other, be administred to every Freeman of the City of London, at the time of his admission to the said Freedom :

You shall Swear, That you shall be true and faithfull to the Commonwealth of England; and in order thereunto, You shall be obedient to the just and good Government of this City of London: You shall to the best of your power, maintain and preserve the Peace, and all the due Franchises thereof; and according to your knowledge and ability, do and perform all such other acts and things as do belong to a Freeman of the said City.

And be it further Enacted By the Authority afore-said, That the same Oath *mutatis mutandis* and no other, shall be administred to all and every Freeman in every City, Borough and Town Corporate in England and Wales, where Oathes are ordinarily administred to Freemen, at the time of their admission to the said Freedom, in every such City, Borough and Town Corporate.

Hen: Scobell, Cleric. Parliamenti.

Die Sabbathi, 10 Febr. 1648.

Ordred by the Commons assembled in Parliament, That this Act, and the Act for abolishing of the Oathes of Allegiance, Obedience and Supremacy, be forthwith printed and published; And that the Members of every City and Borough do take care to send them down into the severall Counties for which they serve.

Hen: Scobell, Cleric. Parliamenti.

An Act for Repeal of the severall Clauses in the Statutes of 1^o Eliz. and 3^o Jacobi, touching the Oathes of Allegiance, Obedience and Supremacy.

BE it Enacted by this present Parliament, and by the Authority of the same, That the Oathes commonly called, The Oathes of Allegiance, Obedience and Supremacy, mentioned in the Statutes of the first year of Queen Elizabeth, and in the third year of King James, and all other Oathes of Allegiance, Obedience and Supremacy whatsoever, shall be and are hereby wholly taken away; and that the severall Clauses and Branches in the said Acts, or any other Act of Parliament touching the said Oathes or either of them, be made void and Null, and shall not hereafter be administered to any person or persons whatsoever; neither shall any Place or Office be void hereafter by reason of the not taking thereof, or of any of them, Any Law, Custom or Statute to the contrary notwithstanding. Hen: Scobell, Cleric. Parliamenti.

Die Lunæ, 26 Febr. 1648.

A Declaration of the Parliament of England, concerning a Paper Subscribed by the Commissioners of Scotland, dated 24 Febr. 1648. and sent in a Letter to Mr. Speaker, to be communicated to the House.

THe Parliament having received a Paper dated 24 Februarii, 1648. Subscribed by the Earl of Lothian, Sir John Chesley, and Mr. Glendoninge, in the Name of the Kingdom of Scotland; and taking the same into their serious considerations, They do Declare, That the said Paper doth contain much scandalous and reproachful matter against the just proceedings of this Parliament, and an assuming on the behalf of the Kingdom, to have power over the Laws and Government of this Nation, to the high dishonor thereof.

And lastly, a Design in the Contrivers and Subscribers of it, to raise Sedition, and lay the grounds of a New and Bloody War in this Land, That under the specious pretences in that Paper contained, they may gain advantages to second their late perfidious Invasion.

And it is further Declared, That all persons whatsoever, residing in *England* or *Ireland*, or the Dominions thereof, that shall joyn with, or adhere unto, or voluntarily ayd or assist the said Contrivers and Subscribers, or any whosoever of the Kingdom of *Scotland*, in pursuance of the grounds by them laid in the said Paper, for raising Sedition and a New and Bloody War in this Land, are Rebels and Traytors

tors to the Commonwealth of *England*, and shall be proceeded against as Traytors and Rebels.

And it is Ordered, That a Message, with a Duplicate of the said Paper be forthwith sent from this Parliament to the Parliament and Kingdom of *Scotland*, to know whether they do or will own and justify the said Paper that hath been presented to this Parliament in their Names.

Hen: Scobell, Cleric. Parliamenti.

Die Sabbathi, 17 Martii, 1648.

*An Act for the abolishing the Kingly Office
in England, Ireland, and the Dominions
thereunto belonging.*

WHereas *Charls Stuart*, late King of *England*, *Ireland*, and the Territories and Dominions thereunto belonging, hath by Authority derived from Parliament, been, and is hereby Declared to be justly condemned, adjudged to dye, and put to death, for many Treasons, Murthers, and other hainous offences committed by him; by which Judgement he stood and is hereby Declared to be attainted of High Treason, whereby his Issue and Posterity, and all others pretending Title under him, are become incapable of the said Crowns, or of being King or Queen of the said Kingdom or Dominions, or either or any of them: Be it therefore Enacted and Ordained, and it is Enacted, Ordained and Declared by this present Parliament, and by Authority thereof, That all the people of *England* and *Ireland*, and the Dominions
and

and Territories thereunto belonging, of what degree or condition soever, are discharged of all Fealty, Homage and Allegiance which is or shall be pretended to be due unto any of the Issue and Posterity of the said late King, or any claiming under him; and that *Charles Stuart* eldest Son, and *James* called *Duke of York*, second Son, and all other the Issue and Posterity of him the said late King, and all and every person and persons pretending Title from, by or under him, are and be disabled to hold or enjoy the said Crown of *England* and *Ireland*, and other the Dominions thereunto belonging, or any of them; or to have the Name, Title, Stile or Dignity of King or Queen of *England* and *Ireland*, Prince of *Wales*, or any of them; or to have and enjoy the Power and Dominion of the said Kingdoms and Dominions, or any of them, or the Honors, Manors, Lands, Tenements, Possessions and Hereditaments belonging or appertaining to the said Crown of *England* and *Ireland*, and other the Dominions aforesaid, or to any of them, or to the Principality of *Wales*, Dutchy of *Lancaster* or *Cornwal*, or any or either of them, Any Law, Statute, Ordinance, Usage or Custom to the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding. And whereas it is and hath been found by experience, that the Office of a King in this Nation and *Ireland*, and to have the Power thereof in any single person, is unnecessary, burthensom and dangerous to the Liberty, Safety and publique Interest of the people, and that for the most part, use hath been made of the Regal Power and Prerogative, to oppress, impoverish and enslave the subject; and that usually and naturally any one person in such power, makes it his interest

to encroach upon the just Freedom and Liberty of the People, and to promote the setting up of their own Will and Power above the Laws, that so they might enslave these Kingdoms to their own Lust; Be it therefore Enacted and Ordained by this present Parliament, and by Authority of the same, That the Office of a King in this Nation, shall not henceforth reside in, or be exercised by any one single person; and that no one person whatsoever, shall or may have, or hold the Office, Stile, Dignity, Power or Authority of King of the said Kingdoms and Dominions, or any of them, or of the Prince of *Wales*, Any Law, Statute, Usage or Custom to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding. And it is hereby Enacted, That if any person or persons shall endeavor to attempt by force of Arms or otherwise, or be ayding, assisting, comforting or abetting, unto any person or persons that shall by any ways or means whatsoever, endeavor or attempt the reviving or setting up again of any pretended Right of the said *Charls*, eldest Son to the said late King, *James* called Duke of *York*, or of any other the Issue and Posterity of the said late King, or of any person or persons claiming under him or them, to the said Regal Office, Stile, Dignity or Authority, or to be Prince of *Wales*; or the promoting of any one person whatsoever, to the Name, Stile, Dignity, Power, Prerogative or Authority of King of *England* and *Ireland*, and Dominions aforesaid, or any of them; That then every such offence shal be deemed and adjudged High Treason, and the Offenders therein, their Councillors, Procurers, Ayders and Abettors, being convicted of the said Offence, or any of them, shall be deemed and adjudged

adjudged Traytors against the Parliament and People of *England*, and shall suffer, lose and forfeit, and have such like and the same pains, forfeitures, judgements and execution, as is used in case of High Treason: And whereas by the abolition of the Kingly Office provided for in this Act, a most happy way is made for this Nation (if God see it good) to return to its just and ancient Right, of being governed by its own Representatives or National Meetings in Council, from time to time chosen and entrusted for that purpose by the People; It is therefore Resolved and Declared by the Commons assembled in Parliament, That they will put a period to the sitting of this present Parliament, and dissolve the same so soon as may possibly stand with the safety of the people that hath betruſted them, and with what is absolutely necessary for the preserving and upholding the Government now settled in the way of a Commonwealth; and that they will carefully provide for the certain choosing, meeting and sitting of the next and future Representatives, with such other circumstances of Freedom in choyce and equality in distribution of Members to be elected thereunto, as shall most conduce to the lasting freedom and good of this Commonwealth. And it is hereby further Enacted and Declared, notwithstanding any thing contained in this Act, No person or persons of what condition and quality soever, within the Commonwealth of *England* and *Ireland*, Dominion of *Wales*, the Islands of *Guernsey* and *Ferſey*, and Town of *Berwick* upon *Tweed*, shall be discharged from the obedience and subjection which he and they owe to the Government of this Nation, as it is now Declared, but all

and every of them shall in all things render and perform the same, as of right is due unto the Supreme Authority hereby declared to reside in this and the successive Representatives of the people of this Nation, and in them onely.

Hen: Scobell, Cler. c. Parliamenti.

Die Lunæ, 19 Martii, 1648.

An Act for abolishing the House of Peers.

THE Commons of *England* assembled in Parliament, finding by too long experience, that the House of Lords is useles and dangerous to the people of *England* to be continued, Have thought fit to Ordain and Enact, and be it Ordained and Enacted by this present Parliament, and by the Authority of the same, That from henceforth the House of Lords in Parliament, shall be and is hereby wholly abolished and taken away; And that the Lords shall not from henceforth meet or sit in the said House called the Lords House, or in any other House or Place whatsoever, as a House of Lords; nor shall Sit, Vote, Advise, Adjudge or Determine of any matter or thing whatsoever, as a House of Lords in Parliament: Nevertheless it is hereby Declared, That neither such Lords as have demeaned themselves with Honor, Courage and Fidelity to the Commonwealth, their Posterities who shall continue so, shall be excluded from the publique Councils of the Nation, but shall be admitted thereunto, and have

have their free Vote in Parliament, if they shall be thereunto Elected, as other persons of Interest Elected and Qualified thereunto ought to have: And be it further Ordained and Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Peer of this Land, not being Elected, Qualified, and sitting in Parliament as aforesaid, shall claim, have, or make use of any Priviledge of Parliament, either in relation to his Person, Quality or Estate, Any Law, Usage or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Hen: Scobell, Cleric. Parliamenti.

Die Lunæ, 23 Aprilis, 1649.

*An Act for setting apart a Day of Solemn Fasting
and Humiliation, And repealing the former
Monethly-Fast.*

WHereas by a Proclamation the Eighth of *January*, in the Seventeenth year of the Reign of the late King, a general Publique and Solemn Fast was appointed to be kept and holden, as well by abstinence from Food, as by publique Prayers, hearing of the Word of God, and other sacred Duties, in *England* and *Wales*, on the last Wednesday of the Moneth of *February* then next following, and from thenceforth to continue during the troubles in the Kingdom of *Ireland*; which was strictly commanded to be observed, upon pain of punishments to be inflicted upon all such as should contemn or neglect so religious a work: And whereas several Ordinances or Orders of Parliament have

since been made, for the holding and observing of the said Fast on the same day ;

The Parliament of *England* finding by sad experience, how much the observation of the said Monethly Fast hath been for divers years last past, in most places of this Commonwealth wholly neglected, and in other places where the same hath been retained, it hath declined by degrees from that Solemnity and due Reverence wherewith the same was at the first Institution thereof entertained, and as is suitable to such an Ordinance of Christ, wherewith the same hath been much prophaned, the Spirits of those that truly fear God, and desire to Worship him in sincerity and truth, been grieved, the Lord highly dishonored and provoked, and much guilt contracted, by the taking of Gods Name in vain : And seriously considering how apt such set times for extraordinary duties of Worship are to degenerate into meer Formality and Customary observances ; and that it is more agreeable to the nature of such extraordinary Worship, and to the approved and successful Examples of the people of God in Scripture, to set apart special times for such Solemn Duties, according to the particular occasions, to the end the same might be observed with greater care and intention: For the better reforming of which abuses, and prevention thereof for the future, Be it Enacted and Ordained, And it is Enacted and Ordained by this present Parliament, and by Authority thereof, That the said Proclamation be Declared *Null* and void ; And that all Orders and Ordinances of Parliament, touching the observation of the said Fast, on the day or days aforementioned, be and are hereby Repealed and made

made void: And that it shall and may be lawful for all and every the Courts of *Westminster*, and all other Courts to sit; and all other person and persons whatsoever, to follow the works of his or their Calling upon those days, without incurring any penalty thereby.

And forasmuch as the multiplied sins of this Nation, the contempt of God and his Ordinances, that general prophaneness, opposition to Reformation, murmuring at the various and gracious Providences of God, and the general unthankfulness for the mercies and preservations this Nation hath received, together with a proneness and endeavor to relapse into that former condition of Tyranny and Superstition, out of which God hath in much mercy lately brought us, do minister just cause of Humiliation; together with the present miseries and straights of our poor Brethren in *Ireland*, through the Apostacy and Perfidiousness of some, and the united Malice and Power of others; and the Parliament being resolved, by Gods assistance, to send some Forces for the speedy Relief of the Parliaments Forces there, and the reduction of the Enemy unto the obedience of the Parliament and Commonwealth of *England*; Be it therefore further Enacted and Ordained by this present Parliament, and the Authority of the same, That Thursday the third day of *May*, *Anno Dom. 1649.* be set apart and appointed for a publique and solemn day of Fasting and Humiliation, to be observed in all Churches and Chappels within the cities of *London* and *Westminster*, and all places within the late Lines of Communication, and Bills of Mortality, earnestly to seek unto Almighty God, through our
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Lord Jesus Christ, that he will be graciously pleased to pardon the sins of this Nation, and in a special maner the Sins beforementioned, and the Iniquities of the former Monethly Fast-days, and that he will be pleased to heal the Divisions and Breaches of this Land, and give a blessing and success to the Forces of the Parliament now in *Ireland*, and such as are shortly to be sent thither, and at the last, to establish his pure Worship, and Righteousness and Peace in this Nation. And be it further Enacted and Ordained by the Authority aforesaid, That Thursday the Seventeenth day of the same Moneth of *May*, 1649. be set apart and appointed for the like publique and solemn day of Fasting and Humiliation, upon the grounds and to the ends aforesaid, to be observed and kept in all other Churches and Chappels, in all other Cities, Boroughs, Towns, Parishes and places within *England* and *Wales*, and the Town of *Berwick*: And all Pastors and Ministers, of and in all and every the Cities, Boroughs, Towns and places aforesaid, be enjoyned and required to publish this present Act, in the severall Churches and Chappels, in and under their severall and respective charges, on the Lords-day next before the day by this present Act appointed for the observation of the said Fast, and to take care that the same be Solemnly and Religiously observed: And that all Majors, Justices of the Peace, Bayliffs, Constables, and all other Officers within their severall and respective Liberties and Precincts, be hereby authorized and required to restrain all persons from the publique doing of any work, or using any exercise of a worldly nature, either contemptuously or unnecessarily, to the prophaning

phaning or neglect of the said Fast on the days aforesaid respectively by such penalties, or as were heretofore by any Ordinance of Parliament to be inflicted for prophaning the said Monethly Fast.

And be it further Enacted and Ordained by the Authority aforesaid, That this present Act be forthwith printed and published; and that the Sheriffs of the several Counties and Cities in *England* and *Wales*, do cause the same to be proclaimed and set up in the usual and publique places within the said several Counties. And all the people of this Nation are hereby required and enjoyned, with all due Reverence and Devotion to observe the said Fast at the days aforesaid respectively, as they tender the glory of God, and the good and peace of this Commonwealth.

Hen: Scobell, Cleric. Parliamentii.

Die Lunar, 14 Maii, 1649.

An Act declaring what Offences shall be adjudged TREASON.

WHereas the Parliament hath Abolished the Kingly Office in *England* and *Ireland*; and in the Dominions and Territories thereunto belonging; and hath Resolved and Declared, That the People shall for the future be Governed by its own Representatives, or National Meetings in Council, Chosen and Entrusted by them for that purpose, Hath settled the Government in the way of a Commonwealth and Free-State, without King or House of Lords; Be it Enacted by this present

sent Parliament, and by the Authority of the same, That if any person shall maliciously or advisedly publish, by Writing, Printing, or openly Declaring, That the said Government is Tyrannical, Usurped or Unlawful; or that the Commons in Parliament assembled are not the Supreme Authority of this Nation; or shall Plot, Contrive or Endeavor to stir up or raise Force against the present Government, or for the Subversion or Alteration of the same, and shall declare the same by any open deed, That then every such Offence shall be taken, deemed and adjudged, by the Authority of this Parliament, to be High Treason. And whereas the Keepers of the Liberty of *England*, and the Council of State, constituted, and to be from time to time constituted by Authority of Parliament, are to be under the said Representatives in Parliament, Entrusted for the maintenance of the said Government, with several Powers and Authorities limited, given and appointed unto them by the Parliament; Be it likewise Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any person shall maliciously and advisedly plot or endeavor the Subversion of the said Keepers of the Liberty of *England*, or the Council of State, and the same shall declare by any open deed; or shall move any person or persons for the doing thereof, or stir up the People to rise against them, or either of them, their or either of their Authorities, That then every such Offence and Offences shall be taken, deemed and declared to be High Treason. And whereas the Parliament, for their just and lawful Defence, hath raised and levied the Army and Forces now under the Command of *Thomas Lord Fairfax*, and are at present necessi-
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tated, by reason of the manifold Distractions within this Commonwealth, and Invasions threatned from abroad, to continue the same; which, under God, must be the instrumental means of preserving the well-affected people of this Nation in Peace and Safety; Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any person, not being an Officer, Soldier or Member of the Army, shall plot, contrive or endeavor to stir up any Mutiny in the said Army, or withdraw any Soldiers or Officers from their Obedience to their Superior Officers, or from the present Government as aforesaid; or shall procure, invite, ayd or assist any Foraigners or Strangers to Invade *England* or *Ireland*, or shall adhere to any Forces raised by the Enemies of the Parliament or Commonwealth, or Keepers of the Liberty of *England*; or if any person shall counterfeit the Great Seal of *England* (for the time being) used and appointed by Authority of Parliament, That then every such Offence and Offences shall be taken, deemed and declared by the Authority of this Parliament to be High Treason; and every such persons shall suffer pains of Death, and also Forfeit unto the Keepers of the Liberty of *England*, to and for the use of the Commonwealth, All and singular his and their Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments, Goods and Chartels, as in case of High Treason hath been used by the Laws and Statutes of this Land to be forfeit and lost. Provided always, That no persons shall be Indicted and Arraigned for any of the Offences mentioned in this Act, unless such Offenders shall be Indicted or prosecuted for the same, within one year after the Offence committed.

Hen: Scobell, Cleric. Parliament.

Die Sabbathi, 19 Maii, 1649.

An Act declaring and constituting the People of England to be a Commonwealth and Free-State.

BE it Declared and Enacted by this present Parliament, and by the Authority of the same, That the People of *England*, and of all the Dominions and Territories thereunto belonging, are and shall be, and are hereby Constituted, Made, Established and Confirmed to be a Commonwealth and Free-State: And shall from henceforth be Governed as a Commonwealth and Free-State, by the Supreme Authority of this Nation, The Representatives of the People in Parliament, and by such as they shall appoint and constitute as Officers and Ministers under them for the good of the People, and that without any King or House of Lords.

Die Lunæ, 9 Julii, 1649.

*Resolves of the Commons assembled in Parliament,
Concerning such Ministers as shall Preach or Pray
against the present Government Estab-
lished by Parliament.*

Resolved, &c.

I. **T**hat if any Minister shall directly or indirectly preach, or publicly pray against the Power, Authority or Proceedings of this present Parliament, or against the present Government established by Authority thereof.

II. Or shall directly or indirectly, in preaching or praying,

praying, make mention of *Charls Stuart*, or *James Stuart*, Sons to the late King, who by judgement of Parliament are Declared Enemies, and stand excepted from pardon, otherwise then as the Enemies to this Commonwealth; or shall under the Name of the Royal Issue or otherwise, promote any Title or Interest taken away, or declared against by Authority of this Parliament, to the prejudice of this present Government.

III. Or shall not keep and observe days of publique Humiliation or Thanksgiving, appointed or to be appointed by Authority of Parliament; or shall not publish the Acts, Orders or Declarations of Parliament, being enjoined and directed thereunto by Authority of the same, having due notice thereof, without reasonable cause to the contrary shewed, shall be deemed, taken and adjudged Delinquents, and within the respective Orders, Ordinances and Acts touching Sequestration, as to their Ecclesiastical Benefices and Stipends.

And that in all such cases, the Committee of Parliament for plundred Ministers, and all other Committees or Commissioners for Sequestration in the respective Counties and places throughout this Commonwealth, shall have power, and are hereby authorized and enjoined to take cognizance thereof, and effectually to proceed thereupon accordingly.

Hen: Scobell, Cleric. Parliamenti.

Die Martis, 17 Julii, 1649.

An Act declaring what Offences shall be adjudged Treason.

WHereas the Parliament hath abolished the Kingly Office in *England* and *Ireland*, and in the Dominions and Territories thereunto belonging; and having Resolved, and Declared, That the People shall for the future be governed by its own Representatives or National Meetings in Council, Chosen and Entrusted by them for that purpose, Hath settled the Government in the way of a Commonwealth and Free-State, without King or House of Lords; Be it Enacted by this present Parliament, and by the Authority of the same, That if any person shall maliciously or advisedly publish, by Writing, Printing, or openly Declaring, That the said Government is Tyrannical, Usurped or Unlawful; or that the Commons in Parliament assembled are not the Supreme Authority of this Nation; or shall plot, contrive or endeavor to stir up, or raise Force against the present Government, or for the subversion or alteration of the same, and shall declare the same by any open deed, That then every such Offence shall be taken, deemed and adjudged by Authority of this Parliament to be High Treason. And whereas *The Keepers of the Liberty of England*, and the Council of State, constituted, and to be from time to time constituted by Authority of Parliament, are to be under the said Representatives in Parliament, Entrusted for the Maintenance of the said Government, with several Powers and Authori-
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ties limited, given and appointed unto them by the Parliament; Be it likewise Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any person shall maliciously and advised plot or endeavor the subversion of the said *Keepers of the Liberty of England*, or the Council of State, and the same shall declare by any open deed, or shall move any person or persons for the doing thereof, or stir up the people to rise against them, or either of them, their or either of their Authorities, That then every such Offence and Offences shall be taken, deemed and declared to be High Treason. And whereas the Parliament, for their just and lawful defence, hath raised and levyed the Army and Forces now under the command of *Thomas Lord Fairfax*, and are at present necessitated, by reason of the manifold Distractions within this Commonwealth, and Invasions threatned from abroad, to continue the same, which, under God, must be the instrumental means of preserving the well-affected people of this Nation in Peace and Safety; Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any person, not being an Officer, Soldier or Member of the Army, shall plot, contrive or endeavor to stir up any Mutiny in the said Army, or withdraw any Soldiers or Officers from their obedience to their Superior Officers, or from the present Government as aforesaid; or shall procure, invite, ayd or assist any Foreigners or Strangers to invade *England or Ireland*; or shall adhere to any Forces raised by the Enemies of the Parliament or Commonwealth, or *Keepers of the Liberty of England*; or if any person shall counterfeit the Great-Seal of *England*, for the time being used and appointed by
 Authority

Authority of Parliament, That then every such Offence and Offences shall be taken, deemed and declared by Authority of this Parliament to be High Treason, and every such person shall suffer pains of death, and also forfeit unto the *Keepers of the Liberty of England*, to and for the use of the Commonwealth, all and singular his & their Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments, Goods and Chattels, as in case of High Treason hath been used by the Laws and Statutes of this Land to be forfeit and lost. Provided always, That no persons shall be Indicted and Arraigned for any the Offences mentioned in this Act, unless such Offenders shall be Indicted and prosecuted for the same, within one year after the Offence committed. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any person shall counterfeit the Money of this Commonwealth, or shall bring any false Money into this Land, counterfeit or other, like to the Money of this Commonwealth, knowing the Money to be false, to Merchandize or make payment, in deceit of the people of this Nation; or if any person shall hereafter falsly forge and counterfeit any such kinde of Coyn of Gold or Silver, as is not the proper Coyn of this Commonwealth, and is or shall be currant within this Nation, by consent of the Parliament, or such as shall be by them authorized thereunto; or shall bring from the parts beyond the Seas into this Commonwealth, or into any the Dominions of the same, any such false and counterfeit Coyn of Money, being currant within the same, as is abovesaid, knowing the same money to be false and counterfeit, to the intent to utter or make payment with the same within this Commonwealth,

wealth, by Merchandize or otherwise; or if any person shall Impair, Diminish, Falsifie, Clip, Wash, Round or File, Scale or Lighten, for wicked Lucre or Gains sake, any the proper Moneys or Coyns of this Commonwealth, or the Dominions thereof, or of the Moneys or Coyns of any other Realm, allowed and suffered to be currant within this Commonwealth, or the Dominions thereof, That then all and every such Offences abovementioned, shall be and are hereby deemed and adjudged High Treason, and the Offenders therein, their Councillors, Procurers, Ayders and Abettors, being convicted according to the Laws of this Nation of any of the said Offences, shall be deemed and adjudged Traytors against this Commonwealth, and shall suffer and have such pains of Death and Forfeitures, as in case of High Treason is used and ordained. Provided always, and be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act touching the Moneys and Coyns aforesaid, or any thing therein contained, nor any Attainder of any person for the same, shall in any wise extend or be judged to make any corruption of blood, to any the Heir or Heirs of any such Offender, or to make the wife of any such Offender to lose or forfeit her Dower, of or in any Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, or her Title, Action or Interest in the same.

Hen: Scobell, Cleric. Parliamenti.

Die Veneris, 24 Augusti, 1649.

A Declaration of the Commons assembled in Parliament, Declaring all persons who have served the Parliament of England in Ireland, and have betrayed their Trust, or have or shall adhere to, or ayd and assist Charls Stuart, Son to the late King, to be Traytors and Rebels.

Resolved upon the Question by the Commons assembled in Parliament,

THat this House doth Declare, That all persons whether *English* or *Scots*, who have been under the pay of the Parliament of *England* in the Service of *Ireland*, and have Revolted, and Betrayed their Trust there; and all other persons who have or shall adhere to, or assist *Charls Stuart*, Son of the late King; or any the Forces in *Ireland* against the Parliament of *England*, are and be adjudged to be Traytors and Rebels to the Commonwealth of *England*, and all their Estates shall be Confiscated, and their persons proceeded against as Traytors and Rebels; And that all such Officers as have so betrayed their Trust, be proceeded against by a Court Marshal there.

Ordere*d by the Commons assembled in Parliament, That this Declaration be forthwith Printed and Published; And that it be referred to the Councel of State to communicate the same to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and such other there as they shall think fit, that the same be put in execution.*

Hen: Scobell, Cleric. Parliamenti.

Die Jovis, 20 Septembr. 1649.

*An Act against Unlicensed and Scandalous Books
and Pamphlets, and for better Regu-
lating of Printing.*

WHereas divers scandalous, seditious and libellous Pamphlets, Papers and Books are daily contrived, printed, vended and dispersed, with officious care and industry by the Malignant Party at home and abroad, for the better compassing of their wicked ends, The subversion of the Parliament and present Government; which they well know cannot with more ease be attempted, then by Lyes and false Suggestions, cunningly insinuated and spread amongst the People, and by malicious misrepresentation of things acted and done, to take off and divide their affections from that Just Authority which is set over them for their good and safety, and to bring a low and mean esteem upon the persons, and a suspicion and hatred upon the courses and intentions of the faithful Members of the Peoples Representative in Parliament, and of other Ministers of State, serving the Commonwealth in their several Subordinations; especially such who are most constant and conscientious in discharge of their Trust, and are therefore become the utmost object of their wretched spleen and malice: And whereas a great occasion of these mischiefs and scandals, and dissatisfaction of many, hath been as well the ignorance and assumed boldness of the weekly Pamphletiers, without leave or due Information, taking upon them to publish, and at pleasure to censure the Proceed-
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ings of Parliament and Army, and other Affairs of State; as also the irregularity and licentiousness of Printing, the Art whereof in this Commonwealth, and in all Foraign parts, hath been and ought to be restrained from too arbitrary and general an exercise: To prevent the many mischiefs inevitably following thereupon, The Parliament of *England* duly considering the premises, and willing to apply fit Remedy herein, Do Enact and Ordain, and be it by the Authority aforesaid Enacted and Ordained, That the Laws made formerly, and at this present Parliament, now in force for punishment of devisers and spreaders of false and seditious News, Lyes and Rumors, by writing, printing, speaking, or otherwise, shall be put in due and diligent execution, according to the tenor of the same Acts: And for further Remedy, Be it Enacted and Ordained, That no person or persons whatsoever, shall presume to make, write, print, publish, sell or utter, or cause to be made, printed or uttered, any scandalous or libellous Books, Pamphlets, Papers or Pictures whatsoever, upon the penalties following; that is to say, The Author of such Books, Pictures or Papers, shall forfeit Ten pounds, or be Imprisoned in the Common Goal of the County or Liberty where the Offence is committed, or the Offender shal be found, until he shal pay the same, so that the Imprisonment exceed not forty days; The Printer to forfeit and pay Five pounds, and suffer the like Imprisonment until he pay the same, the said Imprisonment not exceeding twenty days, and likewise to have his Press and Implements of Imprinting seized, and broken in pieces; The Bookseller and Stationer to forfeit and pay Forty shillings, or be Imprisoned in

in like maner until he pay the same, the Imprisonment not exceeding ten days. And be it further Enacted, That if any person happen to buy any such seditious, scandalous or libellous Pamphlets or Papers, and shall not within four and twenty hours after knowledge thereof, bring them to the Lord Major of *London* (if the buyers resiand be there) or to some other Justice of the Peace within the county, city or liberty where such buyers shall then happen to be, to be sent up, and disposed of as by this Act is afterwards mentioned, and give notice likewise of the party or parties of whom he or they had or bought the same, shall forfeit for every such omission the sum of twenty shillings for every such concealed Paper, Pamphlet or Book, to be disposed of as is herein after mentioned. And for the prevention of false, imperfect and impertinent Relations of Parliamentary Proceedings, and other such Occurrences and News, the truth whereof may be fit to be known and published, for the satisfaction of all the good people of this Commonwealth therein interested, and of all the well-affected thereto, in the clear Information of the state of Affairs; Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no person whatsoever shall compose, write, print, publish, sell or utter, or cause to be made, written, printed or uttered, any Book or Pamphlet, Treatise, sheet or sheets of News whatsoever, unless Licensed (as is hereafter mentioned) upon the like penalty as upon the Maker, Writer, Printer, Book-seller and Stationer respectively of scandalous Books and Pamphlets, both for Fine and Imprisonment, is herein before limited and appointed. And be it further Enacted and Ordained, That the Offender afore-

said shall be discovered, the Offences heard and examined, and the penalties levied and disposed of in such sort, maner and form as is limited, directed and expressed in an Ordinance of Parliament, made in *September*, One thousand six hundred forty and seven, *Against Unlicensed Pamphlets, and for the better Regulating of Printing.* Provided, That so much of the said Ordinance as specifies the imposition of penalties upon such offenders as are before-mentioned, in respect that higher penalties are in stead thereof herein limited and designed, shall stand from henceforth Repealed, and be of no further effect. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that all former Licenses granted by Authority of both or either House of Parliament, to any person or persons, for printing any *Diurnal*, News or *Occurrences*, shall be from henceforth void and of no further effect; And that no Book, Pamphlet, sheet or sheets of News or *Occurrences* whatsoever, shall henceforth be printed, bound, stitched or put to sale by any person or persons whatsoever, unless the same be first approved of and Licensed under the Hand of the Clerk of the Parliament, or of such person as shall be authorized by the Council of State for the time being, or (for so much as may concern the affairs of the Army) under the Hand of the Secretary of the Army for the time being, the same to be Entered in their severall Registers, to be by them kept for that purpose; and also in the Register-Book of the Company of Stationers, according to ancient Custom; and the Printer thereof to put his Hand thereto. Provided always, and it is hereby Declared, That the penalties in this Act expressed, shall not extend to
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quit any person or persons, that shall make, write, print, publish, sell or utter, or cause to be made, written, published, sold or uttered, any Book, Pamphlet, Treatise, Ballad, Libel, sheet or sheets of News, that shall contain any Seditious, Treasonable or Blasphemous matter, but the Offenders in such kinde shall be liable to such further penalties, as by the Laws of the Land are provided, or by Authority of Parliament shall be judged, according to the quality of such offences. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Master and Wardens of the Company of Stationers *London*, assisted with such persons as the Councel of State shall for that purpose nominate or approve, shall and may make diligent search in all places where they shall think meet, for all unallowed Printing-presses, and all Presses any way imployed in the printing of any such unlicensed Books, as aforesaid; or of any malignant, seditious or scandalous Books, Pictures or Papers, and to seize and carry away such Printing-presses and Letters, together with the Nut, Spindle, and other Materials of every such irregular Printer, which they finde so misimployed, unto the Common-Hall of the said Company, there to be defaced and made unserviceable, according to ancient custom; and likewise to make diligent search in all suspected Printing-houses, Ware-houses, Shops, and other places, for such unlicensed and scandalous Books, Papers, Pamphlets, and all other such Books not entred, nor signed with the Printers name, and place of Resiency, being printed or reprinted by such as have no lawful interest in them, and
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the same to seize ; and likewise to apprehend all Authors, Printers, and other persons whatsoever employed in compiling, printing, stitching, binding, publishing and dispersing of the said scandalous and unwarrantable Papers and Books, and all those who shall assist the said parties in searching after them ; and to bring the Offenders, and what they shall have so seized, before such Magistrate or other Officers as are appointed for the Execution of this Act, to be by them ordered and disposed of according to the direction and true meaning of the same Act. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no person or persons whatsoever, shall presume, by the Post, Carriers, or otherwise to convey, send away, or endeavor to disperse any such unlicensed News as aforesaid, or any seditious or scandalous Papers, Pamphlets, Books or Pictures, to any place, or person or persons, upon pain of forfeiture of Forty shillings apiece for every such Book, Pamphlet or Paper, or Imprisonment of the Offender, the same not to exceed Forty days ; the said penalty to be inflicted, paid and undergone, the Moneys to be disposed of, and such inquiry, searches and seizures touching the same to be made, as in the case of selling unlicensed News is herein before limited & expressed. And whereas the great numbers of lewd and scandalous Pamphlets and seditious Books, have been chiefly occasioned by the multitude of Printing-houses, and Presses erected in by-places and Corners, out of the eye of Government, contrary to the custom and practice of former times ; and in that regard some further provision is held requisite for restraining and regulating that general excess and exercise

exercise of the Press, and prevention of the said Enormities; It is therefore further Enacted and Ordained by this present Parliament, and by the Authority thereof, That no Printer, nor any other person or persons whatsoever, shall from henceforth print, use or imploy any Printing-press, Rolling-press, or any other Instruments for Printing, in any part or place of this Commonwealth, save onely in the City of *London*, and Liberties thereof, and the two Universities (excepting such as shall be particularly Licensed and Authorized by special Order of the Councel of State) upon pain that all and every person and persons offending contrary hereunto, shall forfeit and pay the sum of Twenty pounds, and shall have all their Printing-presses, Letters and Materials defaced, and be for ever disabled to be a Master Printer, and Owner of a Printing-press: Provided, That this Clause shall not be construed to extend to the Printing-press now used in the City of *York*, nor to the Printing-press now used in *Finsbury*, for the Printing of Bibles and Psalms; but that the same shall be in like condition to all purposes, as if this Act had not been had or made. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every Printer, or other person or persons whatsoever in the said City of *London*, who now keep Printing-houses, or are Owners of Printing-presses, Rolling-presses, or other Instruments for Printing; as also the Owners of the Printing-press in *Finsbury* aforesaid, shall before the First day of *October*, One thousand six hundred forty nine, enter into Bond, with two Sureties, of Three hundred pounds penalty to the *Keepers of the Liberties* of

of England by *Authority of Parliament*, Not to print, nor cause to be printed, any seditious, scandalous or treasonable Pamphlet, Paper, Book or Picture, dishonorable to, or against the State and Government; nor any Pamphlet, Paper, or Book of News, not Licensed as aforesaid, and Entred in the Register Book of the said Company; nor suffer their Printing-presses, or other Instruments for Printing, to be used for any such unlawful purpose as aforesaid; and that he and they shall also to every Book, Pamphlet, Paper or Picture he or they shall imprint, in the Title page of each Book prefix the Authors Name, with his quality and place of Residence, or at least the Licensers names where Licenses are required, and his own Name and place of Residence at length, upon pain to forfeit the sum of Ten pounds for every wilful failing, and to have all his or their Printing-materials defaced; and for the second Offence, to be disabled from any more exercise of his Trade of Printing: And that like caution shall be given by the Owner of the Press at *York*, to the *Keepers of the Liberties of England* as aforesaid, and by the Printers within either University, to the said *Keepers of the Liberties of England*, in like sum, and for like purposes, and upon like penalties for failing, as is herein lastly mentioned; whereof the especial care to see the same performed within the time last before limited, is especially commended to the Lord Mayor of *York*, and to the said Vice-Chancellors respectively, of which they are under their hands and seals to make certificate to the Council of State, before the Tenth day of *October*, One thousand six hundred forty nine. And be it further Enacted by the Authority

thority aforesaid, That no person or persons whatsoever, shall hereafter set up a Printing-press, Rolling-press, or other Instrument for printing, nor cast any printing Letters, before they Enter into Bond as aforesaid; Nor shall any person or persons demise or let, or being within his or their dispose, suffer to be held or used any House, Vault, Cellar, or other Room whatsoever, to or by any person or persons for a Printing-house, or place to print in, unless he or they so demising and suffering, shall first give notice to the Master or Wardens of the Stationers for the time being, of such demises or suffering to work or print there, upon pain of forfeiture of five pounds for every such Offence; of which intimation the Master and Wardens are hereby enjoined to make an Entry in their Register Book, upon like pain of forfeiture of five pounds for every omission thereof. And be it further Enacted, That no Joyner, or Carpenter or other person, shall make any Printing-press or Rolling-press, nor any Smith shall forge any Iron-work for a Printing-press, nor any Founder cast any Printing-letters for any person or persons whatsoever; neither shall any person or persons import, or cause to be imported or brought into this Commonwealth, from any parts beyond the seas, any Printing-presses or presses, or any Letters founded or cast; nor shall any person or persons buy any such Presses or Letters for printing, unless he or they respectively shall first acquaint the Master and the Wardens of the aforesaid Company for the time being, for whom the same Press, Iron-works or Letters are to be made, forged, imported, bought or cast, upon pain of forfeiture of five pounds for every such Offence, of

which intimation the Master and Wardens are to make Entry in their said Register, upon like Penalty of forfeiture of Five pounds for every Omission thereof. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no person or persons whatsoever, shall Import any scandalous or seditious Books, Pamphlets or Papers, upon pain of forfeiture of five pounds for every such Book, Pamphlet or Paper; nor shall any person or persons land any Imported Books at any Port or place of this Commonwealth, save onely at the Port of *London*; And that no Drifats, Packs, Maunds, Chests, or Fardels of Books, be permitted by any Officers of the Customs or Excize to be opened or conveyed away, before notice given, and the same be viewed by the said Master and Wardens of the said Company, or such as they shall appoint, upon pain of forfeiture of five pounds for every such Offence, so as the Master and Wardens or their Deputies, do make the said view within forty eight hours after such notice, which they are hereby required to make, upon pain of forfeiture of five pounds for every omission of such view as aforesaid. And it also Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That for the encouragement of all Regular Printers, and support of the said Manufactures in this Commonwealth, That no person or persons whatsoever, shall from henceforth Import, or bring in, or cause to be Imported or brought into this Commonwealth, from any part whatsoever, any English Bibles, Psalms, or any Book or Books, or part of Book or Books formerly printed in this Commonwealth; nor shall binde, stitch, or put to sale, any such Book or Books, upon pain of loss and forfeiture of the same, and of

Ten shillings for every Book so imported, bound, stitched, or put to sale. And be it further Enacted, That no person or persons whatsoever in this Commonwealth, shall hereafter print or reprint any Book, Books, or part of any Book or Books, Legally granted to the said Company of Stationers, for their relief or maintenance of their poor, without the License and consent of the Master, Wardens and Assistants of the said Company, nor any Book or Books, or part of Book or Books, now Entred in the Register-Book of the said Company, or which hereafter shall be duly Entred in the said Register-Book for any particular Member of the said Company, without the like consent of the owner or owners thereof, nor counterfeit the Name, Mark or Title of any Book or Books, belonging to the said Company or particular Members; nor shall any person or persons binde, stitch or put to sale any such Book or Books, upon pain of Forfeiture of the same, and of six shillings and eight pence for every Book printed or stitched, bound or put to sale contrary hereunto: And for the better discovery of Malignant Booksellers and others, who make a trade of vending, dispersing and sending to their Customers and Correspondents in the Countrey in Packets, by the Post, Carriers, and such like persons, divers unlicensed and other scandalous and seditious Books, Papers, Pamphlets and Pictures, to the great abuse of the Parliament, and prejudice of the people, Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That any two Magistrates intrusted with the execution of this Act respectively, shall have power upon any just occasion of suspicion, to grant Warrants under their Hands and Seals, to

some sufficient persons, to search Packs and Packets, and seize and bring away such Books, Papers and Pamphlets, to those who granted the said Warrants, to the end the penalties may be levied upon the Offenders, and disposed of according to the tenor and true meaning of this present Act. And be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all unlicensed Books and Pamphlets of News, and all seditious, scandalous and libellous Books, Pamphlets, Pictures and Papers, to be seized by vertue of this Act, shall after the condemnation of the Offender with whom they are taken, or to whom they belong (if the Offender may be discovered and known) be brought, conveyed or sent, and safely delivered to the Secretary to the Council of State, to be disposed of to the fire or otherwise, as that Council shall direct, and be in the mean time safely preserved by the Officers or persons who seize the same, or by those to whom they make delivery thereof, and give account of their employment, according to the true meaning of this Act. And whereas divers vagrant persons, of idle conversation, having forsaken their usual Callings, and accustomed themselves after the maner of Hawkers, to sell and cry about the streets, and in other places, Pamphlets and other Books, and under colour thereof, are found to disperse all sorts of dangerous Libels, to the intolerable dishonor of the Parliament, and the whole Government of this Commonwealth, Be it Ordained and Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no such Hawkers shall be any more permitted; and that they and all Ballad-singers, wheresoever they are or may be apprehended, shall forfeit all Books, Pamphlets, Ballads and Papers

pers by them exposed to sale, and shall, by such as shall by vertue of this Act seize upon them, be conveyed and carried to the House of Correction, there to be whipt as Common Rogues, and then dismissed; the Keepers of which House are hereby enjoined to receive such prisoners, and see this penalty executed, without expecting further Warrant; and where no such House of Correction is, those who seize upon such Offenders, shall deliver them over to the Constable of the Parish or Liberty where they are apprehended, who is forthwith to cause the Offenders to be whipt as Common Rogues, upon pain of forfeiture of Forty shillings, to be paid by such Keepers of the House of Correction or Constable, omitting, neglecting or refusing to do their duty herein: The said offences in this clause mentioned to be examined, and the penalties levied, and to be disposed of such sort and maner, as concerning the penalties of in such as vend unlicensed and scandalous Books and Pamphlets, is herein before directed and expressed: And the Lord Major and Common-Council of the City of *London*, are hereby required to take care that the good Laws of their City against Hawkers, and that this present Act against them and other Offenders, be put in full and speedy execution within their City and Liberties thereof, as they tender the Honor thereof, and of Government: And all Constables, Headboroughs, and other Officers and Ministers, are hereby enjoined to seize upon such last mentioned offenders wheresoever they may be found, and to cause the penalties of the Law to be upon them executed, upon the penalty last before mentioned. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That
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whatsoever penalties in money shall be levied and received by the pains, industry and prosecution of the Company of Stationers (whose vigilancy and care herein is especially required) shall be disposed of as followeth; *viz.* After satisfaction of their charges in inquiry and prosecution, the one moyety of the residue shall be by them received and reserved for the use of the poor of their Company; and the other moyety, or one half, for the use of the Commonwealth, to be yearly by them answered, and paid in to the Receipt of the publique Exchequer; And the Justices of the Upper Bench, Justices of *Oyer and Terminer*, within the limits of their Commission, Justices of Assize in their severall Circuits, Justices of Goal-Delivery, and Justices of Peace, as well within the Liberties as without, within the limits of their severall Commissions in their general Sessions, or other Sessions, which they or any two or more of them (whereof one of them to be of the *Quorum*) may and shall appoint at their pleasure, where and when need shall require, shall by vertue hereof have full power and authority, and are hereby strictly enjoyned to enquire, hear and determine all and every the Offences aforesaid, and to give in charge the Presentment of the same; And they and all other Officers and Ministers concerned, are hereby enjoyned and required to be careful and diligent in the discharge of their Duty in the premises, according to the tenor and direction of this present Act: And all Officers Civil and Military, Soldiers, and other well-affected people, are hereby specially enjoyned to be ayding and assisting to the Execution of this Act, and to seize upon the persons of all such as shall

shall presume to rescue, or actually endeavor to rescue from apprehension or punishment the offenders against this Act, to cause such Countenancers and Disturbers to be immediately brought before some Justice of the Peace, who is to binde them by a Recognizance with good Sureties to the good Behavior, and to appear at the next Sessions for the Peace, there to be Indicted, Fined, and further dealt with, according to Law, and as the quality of such High Contempts may deserve : And such said Offenders as are not able to finde Sureties, are to be caused to be set in the Stocks near to the place where the Offence was committed, and to be Imprisoned there for the space of four hours. And because the life of all good Laws is the due execution thereof, and that the careful observance of this Act, and a strict enquiry into, and punishment of Offenders against the same, will be of especial concernment for the peace and safety of this Commonwealth, Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Councel of State appointed by the Parliament, shall hereby have power and authority to enquire into, and from time to time to receive an accompt of all wilful defaults and contempts of Officers or others, who neglecting or refusing to do their duties, shall thereby obstruct the Remedies provided by this Act ; and are hereby enjoined and required, by all good ways and means to remove such obstructions, and out of the penalties or otherwise, to reward prosecutors or discoverers of Offenders, and to cause this Act to be put in full and effectual execution. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in and upon any
 Action,

Action, Plaint or Suit to be brought against any Officer, or person or persons, for any thing by them acted or done by force of this present Act, every such Officer and person shall and may plead the General Issue thereto, and give this Act, and the whole special matter in Evidence; and if the Verdict pass against the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, or the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs become non-Suit, or suffer any Discontinuance thereof, That then the Defendant and Defendants shall recover his and their double Costs for their wrongful vexation in defence of the said Action or Suit, for which he and they shall have like remedy, as in other cases where Costs by the Laws of this Commonwealth are given to the Defendants: Provided always, And be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no person or persons shall be molested or impeached for any the Offences mentioned in this Act, unless he or they be thereof accused within six moneths after his or their Offence so committed or done. Provided also, That this Act be in force, and to have continuance until the Nine and twentieth day of *September*, which shall be in the year of our Lord, One thousand six hundred fifty and one, and no longer.

Hen: Scobell, Cleric. Parliamenti.

Die

Die Jovis, 27 Septembr. 1649.

*A Declaration of the Parliament of England, in
Vindication of their Proceedings, and discovering
the Dangerous Practices of several Interests,
against the present Government, and Peace
of the Commonwealth; together with
the Resolution of the Parlia-
ment thereupon.*

HOW greatly it hath pleased God, even by a continued Series of Miracles and Wonders, to exalt his own Name, and glorifie his mighty Power in the eyes of this and our neighbor-Nations, by the constant course of Deliverances, which he hath wrought for these many years late passed, on the behalf of a sinful and undeserving People, and by the means of weak and unworthy Instruments, we can never frequently enough remember, nor be sufficiently thankful for: *Their Rock hath not been as our Rock; even our Enemies themselves being Judges.*

And indeed, this wonderful going forth of the good hand of God with us, and for us, hath been that principally which hath supported us, and born us up above all those swelling and multiplied Waves that have followed one upon another, and hath made us to stand against the many Storms and Assaults, wherewith we have been attempted by all sorts of Parties and Interests amongst us; who, dividing and withdrawing themselves from Publike Ends, Do all of them notwithstanding (because acted by one Principle, even the Power of Darknes) make shift,

so far to understand each other, as when opportunity serves, to take one another by the hand, for strengthening and upholding themselves, in practising and contriving, under several specious pretences, against the good, peace and safety of the whole. We have been like unto the *Bush* in the midst of flames, but by the good will of him that dwelt in the *Bush*, We have not been consumed; and like the *Remnant* left by God in the *Land*, which though he will cause to pass through the fire, yet it is to refine them as silver is refined, and to try them as gold is tryed, that he may make them a people who shall call upon God, and he will hear them; and of whom God shall say, *They are my people, and they shall say, The Lord is our God.*

By this secret confidence and expectation of our hearts (wherein we hope we shall not be disappointed) and through the good providence of God, we have been kept together, even to this very day, as weak instruments in the hand of our great God, serving our generations, and discharging the high Trust of our places, whatever the discouragements and difficulties have been that we have met with, and dangers that have threatned us on every side, such as we may truly say, former ages can hardly parallel; and such as were not to have been expected, especially from those who had made so great a progress in conjunction with us against the common Enemy, and in vindication and asserting the purity of Religion, and *Publique Liberty*.

For when first of all we came to be engaged in carrying on this great and glorious work of Religion and *publique Liberty*, how lively and uncorrupted were

were our affections ? how satisfied and unanimous were our judgements ? how fixed and undaunted our resolutions, in that which appeared to us so necessary, so just and so worthy to be undertaken by true Patriots and good Christians ? we did therefore run well, but who, or what hath hindred us, that we seek not still to obtain what at first we thought so desireable, without giving back or turning aside, until the work be perfected, and the persons ingaged in the prosecution thereof be secured against the enmity and revenge of those that are rather made more implacable, then converted by all the deliverances that God hath wrought for us, and the Testimonies of displeasure against them, as often as they have risen up and set themselves against us ?

Whatever the great failings and infirmities have been, and do still daily discover themselves amongst us, that hold it our duty to give our attendance upon our Trust in Parliament, so long as opportunity is offered unto us for the same; we can truly say, That as *Religion* in its *purity* and *publique Liberty*, were the *End*, which from the beginning we had before our eyes, when we engaged in this great Work; so are they still our desires and endeavors: The comfortable fruit whereof we would willingly have to be reaped by this Nation, at least in their succeeding generations, if it were the will of God; and the prosecution of this, and this onely, (however we are reproached, and unjustly vilified by slanderous Tongues and Pens) is that which keeps most of us together at such a time, when as in the case of *Hester*, we see, if we had done otherwise then we have done, and deserted our stations, and cast up the Helm, the

visible means of carrying on the work had failed, and sunk down into certain *Disorder* and *Confusion*.

But whether there hath not been found a manifest defection and Apostacy from these good and Publique ends, by those that at the first did bear the Name of Patriots, and Lovers of Religion amongst us, we appeal to the actions and ways themselves, which such persons have since appeared in, that do sufficiently evidence against them, and declare them the Builders up again of what they once joyned in the destruction of; and so do make themselves Transgressors, and stand in need of no other Confutation and Convictions.

Among the number of those, we reckon them, that either under pretence of advancing Reformation of Religion, can go back, and incorporate themselves with the avowed and known Haters of God, and Enemies to the life and power of Holiness; or that under pretence of bringing us into the perfection of Publique Liberty, can fetch a compass quite round, and make the bringing in again of Monarchy into this Commonwealth, to be the onely means of settling it in Freedom. The Actors in such Designs as these, carry the evidence of their own Conviction in their forehead, unto all that are not wilfully blinde, or maliciously corrupt, and therefore would seem to stand in no great need of much pains to be taken to undeceive them.

And however it hath been the good pleasure of God, to suffer those that have been formerly instrumental and helps to us in this great Cause, thus by steps and degrees to fail, and fall off, like untimely fruit;

fruit; Yet herein hath he shewed his wonderful goodness to this Nation, That their deserting of us, and breaking from us, hath not hitherto been able to keep the Work it self at a stand, but that is still carried on; wherein we rejoyce. And on the contrary, the time wherein they afforded their assistance and help, hath been improved by Gods over-ruling Providence, to bring us much nearer to our journeys end, then ever we could have expected, though the Ship should hereafter miscarry in the very harbor; which God forbid. And for our parts, the larger experience which we have had of Gods constant owning, and seasonable assisting us in our greatest straits, and most eminent dangers; and the serious consideration that the Work it self is of that nature, as requires and obliges us and all good men, to the utmost to offer up our selves in the sacrifice and service thereof, as we desire to approve our selves *sincere* in our *obligations* to God, and *faithful* in our *Trusts* to this Nation; We do resolve, through Gods assistance, to cast our selves upon his favorable acceptance of our endeavors in persevering to the end, and his protection of us in doing our duties, let the issue be what seems best to his Divine Providence, whether for life or for death: And that we may not be wanting in what we are able, for the awakening of all those whom it doth concern, unto the same sense of their duty in this behalf with our selves; We shall briefly lay before them the happy progress, that through Gods goodness hath been made, in procuring the blessings of *Pure Religion* and *Just Liberty* unto this Nation, notwithstanding all the Reproaches and unthankful murmurings of ill-minded men; and wherein we are hopeful to grow up

to whatever remains yet unperfected, if there be but answerable readines in those, whom the good of this as much concerns as our selves, to stand by us, and joyn with us, in attaining the same against those many *hellish Designs* and cursed *Practices* that are now on foot, to *plunge* us again into *new Troubles*, and give greater advantage then ever to the Common Enemy, by our *divisions* and *breaches*, to come in upon as an irresistable flood, with *Tyranny*, *Popery*, *Superstition*, *Prophaneness*, and whatever else we have so dearly contended against for so many years together.

And first, as to advancing of *Religion* to its greatest degree of purity, can any be unmindeful in what a corrupted and degenerate state we found the matters of Religion, at the first sitting of this present Parliament? How near the whole administration of Church affairs was brought to the *superstitious* and *idolatrours patern* of *Rome*, and how quickly we should have found our selves swallowed up in that sinful and wretched Apostacy? for our recovery out of which danger, how careful and zealous hath the Parliament been, to propagate and advance the work of *Reformation* in these Nations, propounding to themselves for their guide herein, the *Word of God* and the *best Reformed Churches*? In which work how happily and comfortably did they proceed, whilst we were purging and Reforming the *evil of Popery*, *Superstition* and *Prophaneness*, in which there was a common consent and agreement, of all those that unfeignedly desired the enjoyment of Religion in its greatest purity: But when once there appeared amongst us (and this from some of those who most earnestly put on the work of *Reformation*, until it arrived to *their own measure* and
growth)

growth) an impatience toward any of differing mindes from themselves, however otherwise truly fearing God, and faithful advancers of his Glory; and a fearfulness in them of going forward, lest that which was *beyond them*, and as necessary to be known and attained, to lead us to the enjoyment of *Religion* in its *purity* and *power*, should take place; whereby it might appear, that the *Reformers of Popery and Prophaneness*, stood themselves in need of *Reformation*, by his appearance and manifestation of *himself*, who sits as a *Refiner and Purifier of silver*, and shall *purifie the sons of Levi*, and *purge them as gold and as silver*, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in *Righteousness*: When this frame of Spirit appeared amongst us, then all further degrees and measures of attainment unto Religion in its purity, would not be born, but must be branded with the foul names of *Heresy*, *Blasphemy* and *Schism*, and the persons be declared and proceeded against as *Enemies to Reformation*, as disturbers of the *Peace*, and as fit objects of the Magistrate his discountenance and punishment.

And such was the implacable and irreconcilable temper of these men; toward those differing from them, that were desirous to carry on the *purity* of Religion beyond their measure, that many of them chose rather to fall into the power of the Cavalier and Episcopal Party, and became instrumental to the bringing in of the late King, upon the *Treaty at the Isle of Wight* (so much since declared against by the Church of Scotland, as destructive to the work of *Reformation* settled in these Nations); then that they would joyn with those they represent Sectaries, in their endeavors to carry on the work they first engaged in, to that

that degree of perfection as became them, after so much Blood and Treasure expended in the prosecution of it.

In this condition was the *Work of Reformation*, when the Treaty at the *Isle of Wight*, by Gods overruling Providence, came to be broken off, that is to say, in a maner *yielded* and *resigned up* into the power of the *Enemies* thereof, and *refused* to be carried on by *them* that were the most zealous *Promoters* thereof *at first*; although it had pleased God to make a way for the same, by continuing together a competent number in Parliament, to hold up the *visible Authority* of this Nation, and by keeping their places and stations, to do their endeavors to prosecute their first Principles and Ends, whilst God gave them any opportunity for the same: Nay, we could wish, That *they* had onely remained passive, and been contented to have let others have carried on the work of *Religion* in its purity, though *they* themselves held back; but this would not serve *their* turn, unless *they* flew in the face of the *visible Authority* of this *Nation*, and took upon them to be *Judges*, whether we were a lawful Magistracy or not, as if that were within their line, and committed to them to determine.

Yet hath not all this discouraged this present Parliament, to do their part in propagating the Gospel, and advencing the purity and power of Religion in this *Commonwealth*; but they have continued those Laws and Ordinances that were already in force, for the good and furtherance of the work of Reformation, in *Doctrine*, *Worship* and *Discipline*, and are still most willing to uphold the same, in order to *suppress Popery*, *Superstition*, *Blasphemy*, and any
maner

manner of *Wickedness* or *Prophaneness* in the Land; onely they do conceive themselves obliged, to *remove* and take away all *obstructions* and *hinderances* to the *growth* of Religion, and power of Holiness in the midst of us; and for this end, they have it now under consideration, how such Acts and Ordinances, or any part of them, as they finde penal and coercive in matters of Conscience, which have been made use of for *Snares*, *Burthens* and *Vexations* to the truly *sincere* hearted People of God, that fear him, and wait for the coming of his Son *Iesus Christ*, may be taken away.

And because we are not ignorant, how injuriously our proceedings herein are charged upon us, as if we were setting up and countenancing an *universal Toleration*; when our true aym in the liberty we give, is onely the necessary *encouragement*, we conceive, due to all that are lovers of God, and the purity and power of Religion: we can and do therefore declare in the sight of God and man, That by whomsoever we shall finde this liberty abused, we shall be most ready to testifie our displeasure, and abhorrency thereof, by a strict and effectual proceeding against such offenders.

And if *after all this*, any of those amongst us, that do profess a love to God, and zeal to advance Religion in its purity, to be their chiefest end and desire, shall nevertheless still sit at a distance from us, or shall be given up so far by God, as to make defection to the contrary party against us, and joyn themselves to them that are open Enemies to Religion and the power of godliness, in what dress soever they cover themselves, We shall not doubt but their

own unfaithfulness, detestable neutrality and wicked doings, will finde them out, and *enlargement and deliverance shall arise* to the people of God *some other way*, whilst they, their names and posterities shall be destroyed.

As for publique Liberty, which is the second thing, for the vindication and asserting whereof, we have not thought our Lives nor Estates, nor any other of these outward comforts, too dear for us to hazard and expose: In what a condition that was at the *sitting down* of this *Parliament*, how near it was to breathing its last, and how little it wanted of being swallowed up in the will of a Tyrant, is so well known to all men, that then made any observation of the state of things, or had any sense of their own sufferings, and will but now remember them, that it shall not be necessary to repeat: And into what a happy condition it is already brought for present, by the *blessing of God* upon the *Councels and Forces* of the Parliament, and how far advanced in a fair way, to a settled and well-established security for the future, though it will not be confessed by unthankful men (whose ingratitude can value no benefit received, be it never so great, while any thing remains for their exorbitant desires to pursue) yet it is such as we cannot but have a deep and tender sense of, and acknowledge it with all *humble thankfulness* to our gracious God, *who hath hitherto helped us*; unless we should shew our selves less affected with it then our Friends are, who are less concerned, and yet look upon it with rejoicing: And how low *thoughts* soever these men have of the *proceedings of providence* in the carrying on of this Cause, yet the future contemplation of the *Actions* of

of this *Time*, (for the *greatness* and *Justice* of them, hardly to be exampled in any other) will cause men to say, *What hath God wrought!* And our very Enemies themselves shew, that they have other Opinions of it, being forced to *feel Gods hand lifted up*, which *they would not see*, sinking into confusion, and gnashing with their teeth, while they *consume away* in their *Envy*; at that *Prosperity* which *God* hath clothed *Us* with from his own good hand.

And we are very confident, that even those who are now acting their parts for their private ends, which they would bring about by what means soever, and remove whatever stands in their way, however either dear or sacred; and would destroy this present Government, which doth and will hinder such Designs, so long as it is in being; and they therefore endeavor to render vile, publishing daily against it, and against many particular men, whom God hath honored with faithfulness to his Cause, and made eminently or specially instrumental to advance the same, all manner of shameless *calumnies*, *lying revilings*, *slanders* and *reproaches*, as if in this time nothing had been done toward this just Liberty, nor that any thing would be done, unless they like *Absalom*, could bring themselves into *power*, and undertake the work according to those *wilde principles* of *theirs*, which they have published in print to that purpose, which holds forth a *Liberty* without *Property*, *publique Safety* or *Protection*.

We say, if those men would but recal to their consideration, *their own hopes* which they had of Liberty in the *beginning* of this Parliament, and with how *small* a proportion of what they now enjoy, their

(then narrower) desires were bounded, they would confess them to be far short of what is already had.

But to let them pass, who being acted by particular interest, have not left themselves the benefit of being convinced or directed by common and universal reason; It was not then believed by most of *those*, whose *innocency* and good meaning is now dangerously abused by the Malignant party (by means of some of those whom they name *Levellers*, whose specious overtures and former pretensions to goodness have deceived *them*) that ever they should have seen all that Ecclesiastical *Hierarchy*, with all their *Tyrannical Courts* and *Attendants*, the *Star-Chamber*, *High-Commission Court*, *Ship-money*, *Projects*, *Monopolies* and *Purveyances*, the *Court of Wards* and *Tenures*, and all the dependencies of it, which heretofore was a legal *Pest* to the Free-born people of this Nation, and the very ruine of many Families; together with the deepest *Root* and Foundation of all the Peoples *sufferings*, even *Kingship* and *Tyranny* it self, as well as the late *King*, should be *wholly taken away*; and thereby (if God be pleased to go on to bless us, and the fault be not in the People themselves, suffering themselves to be made *instrumental* to their own *Miseries*, by endeavoring to *build again* the *things* that are *destroyed*) a sure foundation laid, for *Time* to *erect* upon it the most happy structure of a *just Liberty*, and settled *Prosperity* that may be expected in this world, under the direction and Government of *successive* and equal *Representatives* in *Parliament*: Yet all this, and *much more* hath been done, since the beginning of this *Parliament*, and to which *we* have been *led* by several
steps

steps by the *providence of God*, directing our Coun-
cels in several *degrees* of manifestation, and blessing
our Forces for effecting of them, *beyond* what was
either *first* propounded by us, or could reasonably
have been *hoped* to be brought to pass; the very dis-
covery of so remote an end, in the beginning of the
Action, had been sufficient to have discouraged any
undertaking therein.

And although this great *progress* hath been made
in the vindication and establishing of our just Liber-
ties, yet we do not set up our Rest, as if there remain-
ed no more to be done; And we conceive, they who
duly consider of how great weight and difficulty the
work is that we have in hand, and will but inform
themselves what hath been done now *in eight*
moneths, since the restitution of the just Liberties of
the People, and the settling of the present Govern-
ment, they will not be offended that something re-
mains to be proceeded in.

They may take notice, That *Ireland*, which was
brought into such a condition, *first*, by the Treason
of *Inchiquin*, whereby the whole Province of *Mun-*
ster was lost; *Then* by the return thither of *Ormond*,
whereby most of the *Papish* Party were reconciled,
and with whom a Peace was made, for carrying on
the Interest and pretended Title of *Charles Stuart*:
Thirdly, by the Rebellion of all the *Scotish* in *Ul-*
ster, upon the same Interest; and by the revolt of
many that were under the Command of Lieutenant
General *Jones*; all that remained to the Parliament
there, was onely within the walls of *Dublin* and *Der-*
ry, and they both strongly besieged; yet through
the blessing of God, *Ireland* it self is now in a more
hopeful:

hopeful way of speedy settling, then at any time since the first Rebellion.

There hath been also this year, a great and powerful Fleet set out to Sea, under faithful Commanders, whereby *Trade* hath been *protected*, the *English* Honor and *Interest* upon their Seas *maintained*, *Forreign Attempts* against us *discouraged*, and a great Reputation procured to our Affairs abroad.

A free passage hath been also given to the execution of Justice, according to the Laws, throughout the Nation; and the Peace thereof hath been preserved, notwithstanding many Designs, and some endeavors to disturb it.

And for *what* still *remains* to be done, we shall according to the great Trust that is upon us from the People, proceed therein for the procuring their *Common good* (which is the true and ultimate end of all just Government) and by a right aim at that, direct all our actions, and not cease to improve our best judgments, and lay out our most unwearied labors, notwithstanding all discouragements, either from Malice, Envy, Danger, or any other cause whatsoever, to promote the same, *so far* and *so fast*, as the subject matter will bear: The proceedings wherein ought to be judged sufficiently *expeditious*, that are sufficiently *safe*. And we should betray our great Trust, if we should suffer our selves, by the impotent haste and importunity of any, to do that which might be inconsistent with the Peace and Safety of the whole.

The great work we have first to do, is, To establish the *Being* and *Safety* of the *Commonwealth* upon sure Foundations, which are undermined by more Enemies then are visible to all. This provided for, we shall
not

not be wanting daily to *remove* or *adde* what shall be for the *well-being* of it, either in Conveniency or Ornament : for the enjoyment whereof, we conceive the People may with the greater patience attend, because their present condition is already so much *better* (besides the capacity of improvement) then it was in the best of that *Egyptian* state, to which (by reason of some necessarily remaining Pressures) they are too easily seduced to an inclination to return. To preserve them from which (because we would not omit any thing that is in our power, that may be for the good of those who have trusted us) we shall endeavor to *undeceive* those of the People, whose innocency and wel-meaning hath subjected them to be deceived and dangerously mis-led, by the specious & subtile insinuations of that sort of men, who being themselves corrupted by the common Enemy, do endeavor to bring the Nation again under the bonds of *Tyranny* and *Monarchy* ; and while they have nothing in their view but Liberty, are deceived into those Actions and Practices, which tend naturally and necessarily to the inevitable loss of that Liberty they so much call for, if they should not be preserved against their will, by those who know the danger into which they run.

For this purpose, we desire all men to remember, That at the end of the first War, we had not then an end of our Troubles ; But that Enemy which was beaten and Conquered in the Field, and could do no more by Force, had recourse to Subtile Practices ; and by corrupting a Parly in the Parliament, and by their influence there, being so corrupted, had almost broken that Army by which *He* was beaten.

The specious pretence was, The liberty and ease of
the

Specious arguments to
disband the
Army.

the People; they had long been under a War, oppressed and ruined with heavy burthens, which 'twas now necessary to ease them of: What benefit had the People by those Victories, and that Conquest, if they must still continue under the the same charge? There was now no more an Enemy in the field, what need was there of an Army, to continue that heavy and unnecessary charge upon the People? By such Arguments, and by their power, that Faction prevailed to Vote the *Disbanding* of the Army; and vast sums of the Commonwealths *Treasure* was by *them* then wasted to effect it, and thereby to make way for the admitting of the then King to the re-exercising of that power which had produced such bloody and fatal effects, and without any just satisfaction given to the People for the same; which how easily and certainly it would have followed the disbanding of the Army, is sufficiently evident by the breaking out of the second War, then in Design and Agitation.

And although the *second* War was also by the blessing of God upon the endeavors of those who were faithful in the Parliament and Army, brought to an end, and that *Design* of mischief, which was so *universally* laid, and that came to *Action* in so many several parts of this Nation; and although assisted with the *Invasion* of a numerous Army of a *Foreign* Enemy, who had a deep *Interest* in, and close *Correspondency* with a very great party of all sorts in this Nation, effected nothing of their main end (God being pleased so signally to evidence his indignation against them) yet it is very evident, in what condition the Liberty of the People had been (as to all humane support) if the Army had not been in a readiness

to have opposed that Design, which that Trayterous party did so vigorously drive on, under the pretence of easing their burthens, to leave them naked of all defence, against the prepared attempts of their Malice.

This grand *Design* of Mischief is *still* carried on, although by *other* Agents, and under *another* Pretence: The former Agents have now neither *Credit* nor *Power*, and therefore being able to contribute to that Cause, no more then the first Malignants themselves, *they* now appear not. Another course is resolved and pursued; *they* see they were not able to *beat* the *Army*, nor *disband* it, nor *persuade* the people they might *spare* it, they attempt to corrupt the Discipline of it, and debauch the fidelity of the private Soldiers, and make them theirs: And while the endeavors are strong to *re-establish* Monarchy and Tyranny, and to make the People absolute Slaves, nothing is to be *held out* to them but *Liberty*, and make them believe, there is nothing hinders it but the *Parliament*.

And the apparent Actors in all this, must be those called *Levellers*, none being so fit as *they* to destroy the Peoples Liberty unsuspected, if they once undertake it, as having endeavored already (though there be little cause for it), to make them believe *They* are the *only* faithful *Patriots*, the *Assertors* and *Maintainers* of it. Some of those having made *defection* from that profession they sometimes made of *Religion* and *Godliness*, and having entertained *Principles* of *Atheism* and *Licentiousness*, and practised accordingly, found that the practising of those Principles would not be born in a Commonwealth, under a good

and just Government, where Justice hath its course, and Propriety is maintained, where sobriety and temperance is in reputation, and the purity, and power, and life of Religion and godliness is countenanced and promoted.

And knowing, that if the pretended Interest of *Charles Stuart* could be set up, the managing of it would be in the hands of those that are of as *Atheistical* and *Licentious Principles* as themselves, and that they might in such a Government, without either shame or danger, let out their lusts without control; They have *espoused* that *Interest*, come off to that side, held Correspondency with him and his Party: And in pursuance thereof, have for some while past directed all their actions to the *ruine* of this *Commonwealth*, and *enslaving* the *People*, whom they deceive in the mean time with the name of *Liberty*, with which they would cloak their own licentiousness.

These Principles and this practice of theirs, is evident to all, who observe their walkings and their correspondency; besides what from the abundance of their hearts, flow from their Pens in what they publish to the world, take this Testimony of an intercepted Letter, written from one who hath been employed to corrupt them, and thereby drive on the main Design; It needs no Comment, it speaks plain, and is as follows:

This Letter was intercepted two or three days before the Murdery at Oxford brake forth.

May it please your Lordship,

Yours of the third instant came to my hand; in return whereof, know, That all our hopes here depends upon His Majesties seeming compliance with Lilburn, and the Levelling Party,

ty, whose discontent's increase daily; without which, it is impossible for any of his Party here to be serviceable, unless upon their principles. For my own part, I am serviceable to that end with my utmost abilities. I have not been wanting to endeavour the creating jealousies and contentments, thereby to ruine the most potent: In order whereunto, I have caused Lenthall the Speaker to be accused by some discontented persons, Prisoners, to whom I have been very prodigal, both in Rewards and promises of Freedom; insomuch that they have prosecuted him so cunningly, that many considerable persons, both in the Army and City, are engaged therein. And to the end the Plot may take to the purpose, I have insinuated by my Agents into some of the Levelling Party, That it is a Design of the Grandees to remove him, to the end they may make their Lord President Bradshaw Speaker in his room; which hath taken such effect among the simple hearted Levellers, that they, so far as I can apprehend, are resolved to joyn their interest with the Speakers, to prevent so great a mischief (as they call it) by which means, I doubt not but to accomplish a Design, that shall pull down these two great Pillars of their new Commonwealth.

As touching the state of Affairs here, in relation to his Majesty, I finde that his friends increase daily

(as to matter of affection) but have no possibility of embodying, although some endeavors have been that way, unless the Lovellers lead the way, which (although some overtures have been made to prevent) will be, I hope, suddenly put in execution. Sir, to that purpose I desire that some assistance may be given me; for without supplies of money, little can be expected; those I converse withal, being either extreme needy or covetous: I have sent a faithful Agent over Sea, to salute and attend the motion of his Irish Excellency, I doubt not but shortly you will receive a good account touching that business. Sir, I pray be mindful of him, that as a Prisoner for his affection to the service of His Majesty, hath been wanting in nothing, according to his utmost possibilities, that might manifest his loyalty to his King, and respects to your Lordship.

Lond. Fleet, Sept. 6. 1649.

T. F.

The inner Case in which the Letter was inclosed, indorsed thus,

For 250 these

The utter Case thus,

A Mounseieur, Mounseieur Robert Shamatre au quatre vents Rue perdue peroch la place Maubert A Paris.

In which was written thus: Sir, I beseech you, as heretofore, convey the enclosed as directed; the performance hereof will exceedingly oblige

Your Friend, T. F.

And

And whereas the Principal means that God hath used to procure the Liberty we now enjoy, hath been the *Councils* and *Authority* of the *Parliament*, and the *faithfulness* of the *Army*: These men have attempted upon both; they have by their false, seditious and treasonable Invectives and Pamphlets, labored to render the Parliament not onely contemptible, but abominable to all the people, that they might weaken and take off that Respect and Reverence they owe to them, from whose Obedience they designed to debauch them, and so be left without any visible Power to direct them; and that this *Commonwealth* might run into *Tumultuary Confusions* in the Infancy, and not grow up into any measure of strength and settlement, in the hands of those whom God hath owned and used as Instruments to bring the work thus far, and who by long use might reasonably be supposed to have gotten some experience in that great work.

All their endeavors have been improved to procure a *Dissolution* of this Parliament, and the calling of a New Representative, pretending the People ought to have the liberty of new and frequent Elections; though they very well know, that as the present Distemper of the People was, the violence of Faction, and activity of their secret Enemies, either these Elections could not be free, or the People must have lost their Liberty by it, which was the thing they had in design and prosecution.

And to give them an experiment, how much Liberty they were like to have enjoyed under the managing of these men, whose Principles of Tyranny are as the *Leyns* to the *Little finger* of those whom they so much

much cry down : That *Crude* Conception of the *Agreement of the People*, which was the first birth of a few of themselves, must be obtruded upon them as a *super-Parliamentary Law*, without receiving and owning of which, no man should have enjoyed those Liberties they so much boast to be the unquestionable *Birth-right* of every Free-born man.

For the Army, they knew the Officers were above their secret Practice, they therefore apply to the Soldiers, and by their Emisaries every where, infuse into them their Doctrine of Disobedience.

And knowing well how the Design of *Charls Stuart* was laid for *Ireland*, and into what hopeful condition for his Party, his Affairs were there grown, all their endeavors were used to hinder the sending of Forces thither, to prevent his greatness there, from whence he might have been considerably dangerous to this Nation: They delivered for good Political Doctrine, That *Ireland was a free kingdom, had been Conquered by force, and had justly vindicated their own Liberty, ought not to be compelled to any obedience or subordination to this Nation; That the Soldiers ought not to suffer themselves to be Transported thither, they had indeed fought for their own Liberty here, but ought not to be commanded out of their own, to take away that of others.* And what effect this had, and how far, and how long the Relief of *Ireland* was hindred by the Disobedience and *Mutinies* by them caused, is very well known; so as if God had not been pleased by *no less* then a *Miracle* to give Victory to a small handful of our men there, even *besides* their own *intention*, and beyond their Design, against a very great

great Army of the Enemies, there had not been left a Landing place in *Ireland* for our Army, but what they must have fought for.

They also continually suggested to the Soldiers, that *the Parliament was a Nest of Tyrants*, and therefore to be destroyed as publique Enemies, with much more of this kinde, both published in print, and so dispersed, and otherwise disseminated among them; and what effects this Doctrine wrought, the *defection* begun in some Regiments in *Wiltshire*, and other places, (though by the mercy of God soon ended at *Burford*) and now lately at *Oxford*, hath sufficiently manifested; which disobedience, if it had proceeded further, and not been restrained by that special Providence, which hath set bounds to the sea that it cannot pass, we might soon have been without an Army to have served the Commonwealth against their attempts, who had laid their Designs to appear *then*, when the distempers in the Army should be ready for them: As at that time the *surprise* of *Weymouth* was appointed by Captain *Gardner* and his accomplices, by Commission from *Charles Stuart*.

And to the end also the Army might be the more easily corrupted in its Discipline, and made odious to the people, all means are used to keep the Army at *Free-quarter*, whereby they might gratifie Licentiousness, while Soldiers were unpaid, and so left to live at discretion: They pursue the former method, complain of Burthens, cry down *Exciſe* and *Taxes* (but not a word of Danger) they know without these at present, an Army cannot be paid, or the Liberty of the People preserved: If
this

this Art had *succeeded*, and the People had absolutely refused to pay, the Army must either have come to *Free-quarter*, heavier then all Taxes, or must have broken, and then the Commonwealth had been again actually in the hands of *Tyranny*.

To perswade the People the better, they represent unto them what vast sums are daily levied, tell of many *Millions*, with a sufficient *multiplication*, that have been collected; of which no accompt (they say) can be given; That they are beyond all that ever was laid upon them by Monarchy in the worst of times; and they leave no way unattempted, to aggravate every inconvenience, to make the people sensible of their smart, that they may *throw away* their *plaster*, and *dye* of their *wounds*: Indeed, we cannot but acknowledge, that the present Burthens are great, and we have reason our selves to be as sensible of them as any others (having no exemption from them according to the proportion of our Estates, where ever they lie :) And there is nothing that is more in our desires and endeavors, then that we may be able to abate the *Taxes*, and in time to take them off, that the people might come to *enjoy* entirely the *fruit* of that which hath cost them so dear; and we hope, through the blessing of God, disposing the mindes of the People to a chearful co-operation in this work, with a calmness and patience for a little while longer, there will be a happy end of these troubles, and a sure settlement of the Peace of this Commonwealth, in the true, good, and just Liberty of the People.

But for the better preservation of the people from the distempers that might arise from such suggestions,

we

we desire them to consider, That if the *Burthens* they bear be *great*, yet by whose means, and for what cause were they laid on. *Physick* may be, and often is more *troublesom* then the *disease*, yet the *tendency* of the *one* is to *health* and *recovery*, the *other* to *death*; and from that difference the election is clear and easie. And though the art of restoring a dislocated joynt is much more torment, then the quiet suffering of the present pain, yet every man prefers that torment before lamencis. No man refuseth to procure *Antidotes* in time of *Epidemical diseases*, though at very *dear* rates, because it is for his *preservation*; nor to buy *food* and *clothing*, because he cannot live without them. And we doubt not, but if men would without prejudice consider, That they can no more live, or live free, without an *Army*, then without food, as the *present state of Affairs* stand; and that they are in times of such general distempers, as there is *need* of *such* a remedy, they would be beyond the danger of being seduced by these pretences.

And whereas the Liberty of the people is so highly cryed up by these *Deceivers*, as being that for which men must thus adventure all; we do acknowledge, That a just and well regulated Liberty, under just and good Laws, that may preserve it from participation of, or degenerating into *Anarchy* and *Confusion*, is a most desireable thing, and that which may deserve the utmost hazard of all that is dear to a man; but we desire them to consider, That this was seized into such hands, as it could not be purchased from, without a vast expence; nor secured, without trouble and charge, which we therefore, though

with a tender sense, and with much reluctance, are for the present necessitated to raise *Those* who cry out upon it, and would have all Burthens, all Taxes taken off, for the Liberty of the People, are *Those* who at best (if they be not professedly *Enemies*) are yet *acted* and *abused* by them as Instruments to *destroy* all our true Liberties, to reduce us again under the Power of a worse *Tyranny* than we ever yet were under: And to this the People must themselves be made Instrumental, while they pursue an *empty Name* of that *Thing*, the possession whereof they already have, and may keep and enjoy, if they will not be abused by those who under the pretence of that Name, which is in it self most desirable, would bring into the Nation what in themselves they have entertained, both in Principle and Practice; namely, *Atbeism*, *Licentiousness*, with *Anarchy* and *Confusion* of all things.

We have thought it necessary at this time, to make this Discovery of those men, and to give this warning of them; and, God assisting us, shall not cease to watch against, and suppress all their designs, and oppose all their Practices: And as our duty is in respect of our great Trust, we shall endeavor to make the people happy, and promote their good; and shall not give over that good work, for any discouragements from the unkindness and unthankfulness of those for whom our labors are intended.

And if we have suffered these Distempers to proceed thus far, and have not put out the power that resides in us to secure the *Commonwealth* & good *Patriots* from the dangers that are here represented; Let it be considered,

sidered, how weighty Affairs have been upon us, and how much hath been done since we were a Commonwealth. Besides that, the whole Body hath been in a long and dangerous disease; and it could not be expected, but though the Cure be perfect, yet many Humors would remain, that might possibly be capable to be altered, and being so, be more profitable to the Body, then to be purged out; and we thought it convenient to wait, if their better consideration of affairs, and of their duty, would reduce them to a better temper: But now finding some incorrigible, and that our tenderneſs to their Errors (which we would willingly have called Mistakes) is interpreted to be weakness and fear, by those that offend, and slackneſs and negligence, by those who are in danger; We do hereby Declare, That we have Resolved to alter that course: And as Justice hath been lately done on some at *Oxford*, in a Military and Marshal way, who were subject to that Jurisdiction, and shall be in like maner on any other that shall so offend; so we have issued special *Commissions* of *Oyer and Terminer*, for the speedy Tryal of the Chief of those who have laid and carried on those dangerous Designs; and shall be ready to spare the rest for present, whose repentance and sorrow for their past Crimes, may render them capable of Mercy; and who shall give sufficient Security, that they will not hereafter endanger or disturb the Peace of the Commonwealth. And we do also hereby Declare, That as we shall have in especial *Esteem* all good *Patriots*, and for their just advantage upon all occasions, take notice of those who deserve well of the Commonwealth; so if any shall hereafter practice
 against

against the *Commonwealth*, and the present *Government* thereof, and shall offend against the Laws Established, of what ever Quality, Condition or Calling they are, there shall be a speedy and severe proceeding against them, without favor or respect of persons, that we may so far as God shall enable us, fulfil the end of Magistracy, in being *A terror to the evil doers, and for the praise and encouragement of them that do well.*

Hen: Scobell, Cleric. Parliamenti.

O*rdere*d by the Parliament, That these *Acts, Orders and Declarations*, be forthwith Printed and Published.

Hen: Scobell, Cleric. Parliamenti.

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